

Mayor's Cabinet Meeting Highlights

Mon., Dec. 28, 2015

Below are highlights from the December 28, 2015 mayor's cabinet meeting, a monthly meeting with the mayor and City commission chairs or their representatives. Please note that this meeting is intended to exchange information on commission activities; no official actions are taken.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Architectural Commission (AC) – Chair Andrea Gardner Apatow

Barry Bernstein termed out and Sheri Hirschfeld will join the commission in January. One project that came before the commission for not following sign rules has made necessary changes.

Charitable Solicitations Commission (CSC) – Chair Murray Fischer

Karen Platt will become the new chair in January; Richard Schreiber will be the vice chair. The CSC reviewed applications and financial statements; most were approved. The CSC will meet with some prominent event planners in the next few months to seek their help with getting charities to pull permits.

Public Works Commission (PWC) – Vice Chair Sandra Aronberg

Test wells for shallow groundwater were successful and the City will start drilling in January. The water will be tested for approx. a year, to see if it is high enough quality for drinking water; it must be approved by the state. Typically thousands of gallons of this water end up in storm drains. It is possible the water will have high salinity; the City is talking with Israel about plants that can tolerate saltier water. The Cabrillo reservoir water is now being captured and used for street cleaning and other uses such as filling the Electric Fountain. The Jewish National Fund will sponsor a summit on water conservation at the Wallis on March 1 and 2.

Health and Safety Commission (HSC) – Commissioner Gary Ross

In January Lisa Kay Schwartz will be the new chair and Daniel Nazarian will be the vice chair. The coming year the H&S commission plans to focus on promoting accident avoidance through "awareness" ("Aware!, Aware!, Aware!" campaign) featuring awareness and prevention of Distracted Driving and Distracted Walking (including ear buds and walking and texting). The HSC will be revisiting the issue of hover board safety. This year the HSC has given out monthly awards to organizations and individuals, who have promoted health and safety in the community, including recent recipients: the school crossing guards and the Walk

with the Mayor program. Postcards promoting preparedness for El Niño storms are being sent out. CERT classes start in February.

Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) – Chair Lisa Greer

The CHS continues to work on land-marking the old Gibraltar bank building and are close to an agreement. It would be the first commercial building of its type to be landmarked. The CHC chair asked that residents send in suggestions for older, classic homes that are worth being saved.

Planning Commission (PC) – Vice Chair Joe Shooshani

The PC reviewed affordable housing availability in Beverly Hills. The PC approved a larger convenience store for the 76 station at Olympic and Beverly. Commissioners are still considering the L'Ermitage Hotel's request to build a glass enclosure over the roof and a glass elevator facing outdoors; the PC is concerned about noise and parking.

Human Relations Commission – Chair Ori Blumenfeld

Ori Blumenfeld is terming out as chair and Karen Popovich-Levyn is rotating in as chair. The homeless count is taking place on Jan. 27. It will be a driving rather than walking count this year; the Ambassadors will focus on counting individuals in stairwells. Aggressive panhandling has increased with the holidays; anyone who witnesses aggressive panhandling should text the Ambassadors at 424-302-1487. The HRC held its second hearing on tenant/ landlord cases. Tenant issues that were presented included the 10% annual rent increase and fear of retaliation if a tenant makes a complaint. The HRC will collect data on the number and types of cases and report to the City Council.

Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) – Commissioner David Seidel

Jake Manaster will be the new chair in January. The TPC is discussing ways to enforce rules regarding electric vehicle charging parking spaces. The City is doing sweeps to crackdown on disabled parking abuse; Commissioner Jeff Levine is pursuing legislative changes. The commissioners had discussions on ways to mitigate traffic problems on North Santa Monica Blvd during construction, including access to South Santa Monica Blvd. Citizen requests for permit parking zones still come in. A City initiated process is currently under consideration for one street, but likely will be necessary in very few areas of Beverly Hills. The commission gathered input from citizens about improving the Beverly/Beverwil/Olympic intersection.

Recreation and Parks Commission (RPC) – Chair Simone Friedman

Frances Bilak will be the next chair. The seniors held their early New Year celebration; they will go on a field trip to Clifton Cafeteria and the Broad Museum downtown. The youth basketball league is underway; founder Bruce Horowitz is receiving a Step-Up Award. A midnight movie night for 6th graders will be held at Roxbury Park. The RPC will have a "hard hat preview" of

the construction at Horace Mann School. The Manor will perform at Greystone for the 14th year; Music in the Mansion is also back again. The City is replacing 120 trees on Peck Drive, after a long public process. The new trees will be Drake Elms, a variety of Chinese Elm. The Commission will be focusing next on Coldwater Park. Bids will be in soon for the Greystone Theatre. Signage projects in the two gateway areas are complete. The dog park is moving forward.

Fine Art Commission (FAC) – No report

Design Review Commission (DRC) – No report

Mayor's Report

The City is in discussion with the Department of Water and Power about the Orange Grove property next to Coldwater for use as possible green space. Items on the Jan. 5 agenda include making the Sunshine Task Force and Next Gen Committee permanent. Feedback from the commissions on the Dec. 5 workshop was very positive; all were in favor of future training. The Police Chief recruitment process is ongoing. The mayor thanked all the commissioners for their hard work this year.

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